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identifying a printhead-related service condition not adequately addressed by servicing the printer with the first service module in an un-used condition;

providing a second service module with a service function different from the first service module and adapted to address said printhead-related service condition;

removing the first service module from the printer;

installing the second service module in the printer in place of the first service module;

using the second service module, conducting a special printhead-related servicing operation.

11. (Amended) A method for servicing an inkjet printer including an inkjet printhead with a nozzle plate and a first service module removably installed on the printer, comprising:

identifying a printhead-related service condition not adequately addressed by servicing the printer with the first service module in an un-used condition, wherein said printhead-related service condition includes ink accumulation on the nozzle plate;

providing a second service module with a service function different from the first service module and adapted to address said printhead-related service condition; the second service module including a wiper or applicator having applied thereto a cleaning fluid for removing the ink accumulation.

18. (Amended) A method for servicing an inkjet printer including an inkjet printhead and a removable first service module, comprising:

providing a second service module different from the first service module and adapted to address a printhead-related service condition not adequately addressed by the first service module in an unused condition; and

installing the second service module in the printer;

conducting a printhead-related service operation using the second service module; and

providing a set of instructions for using the second service module with the inkjet printer to the printer user.

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22. (Amended) A method for servicing an inkjet printer including an inkjet printhead and a removable first service module, comprising:

- providing a second service module different from the first service module and adapted to address a printhead-related service condition not adequately addressed by the first service module in an unused condition; and

- installing the second service module in the printer;

- conducting a printhead-related service operation using the second service module;

- after completion of the printhead-related servicing operation, removing the second service module from the printer; and

- installing the first service module in the printer in place of the second service module.

24. (Amended) A method for servicing an inkjet printer including an inkjet printhead and a removable first service module, comprising:

- providing a second service module different from the first service module and adapted to address a printhead-related service condition not adequately addressed by the first service module in an unused condition, wherein said printhead-related service condition includes ink accumulation on the nozzle plate, and wherein the second service module includes a wiper or applicator having applied thereto a cleaning fluid for removing the ink accumulation;

- installing the second service module in the printer;

- conducting a printhead-related service operation using the second service module.

28. (Amended) An inkjet printing system, comprising:

- an inkjet printhead;

- a service area for performing service functions on the printhead;

- a first service module for removable mounting at the service area to perform service functions on the printhead during a standard printhead service mode;

- a second service module for removable mounting at the service area in place of the first service module to perform a different service function from that performed by the first service module in an unused condition on the printhead during a special printhead service mode.

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32. (Amended) A method for servicing an inkjet printer including an inkjet printhead with a nozzle plate and a first service module removably installed on the printer, comprising:

identifying a printhead-related service condition not adequately addressed by servicing the printer with the first service module in an un-used condition, said printhead-related service condition including vibration or shock incurred during shipment or moving of the printer, the second service module including a special capping structure having a range of movement along an axis generally transverse to a nozzle array of the printhead, and a bias structure which urges the capping structure toward and into engagement with the printhead during a capping procedure, and wherein the special capping structure including a relative hard, non-resilient cap structure which contacts the printhead during the capping procedure;

providing a second service module with a service function different from the first service module and adapted to address said printhead-related service condition; and

performing the capping procedure with the second service module installed in the printer, and maintaining contact between the non-resilient cap structure and the printhead to prevent a pumping action on the printhead when subjected to vibration and shock.

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful review of the application as set out in the outstanding office action. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

A marked up version showing the changes made to the application is attached hereto.

Claims 1-33 are pending in the application.

Claims 3-9, 11, 18-22, 24, 32 and 33 stand as objected to as depending upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 3, 5, 11, 18, 22, 24 and 32 have been amended for the sole purpose of placing these claims in independent form. These claims are therefore in condition for allowance.

Claim 31 has been allowed.